

M. Tanaka et al.
U.S. Serial No. 09/841,666
Page 6 of 8

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 and 10-12 were withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to non-elected inventions. Claims 6-9 have been amended by the present amendment. The amendment is fully supported by the specification as originally filed (see, e.g., page 20, last paragraph to page 21, first paragraph).

With reference to FIGS. 4 and 8, Applicants' claimed invention is directed to an apparatus and method for producing an optical film, including a cylindrical die roller 105 having a matrix of concave or convex portions formed on a surface of the die roller (see specification at page 21, last paragraph to page 22, first paragraph). The concave or convex portions are formed in parallel rows 32 (see FIG. 8), and the die roller 105 is rotated to transfer a rough face 5 of the matrix to a photosensitive resin film 103 (see FIG. 4).

As shown in FIG. 1, the rough face 5 of a die film 1 formed by the roller can include pyramidal convex portions 3 which are inclined at a predetermined angle with respect to a surface of the film (see page 21, first paragraph). As amended, claims 6-9 require the concave or convex portions to be inclined at a predetermined angle of between about 10 degrees and 80 degrees with respect to a circumferential direction of the die roller (see page 21, first paragraph).

Therefore, the die roller 105 depicted in FIG. 4 can be formed with concave or convex portions which are inclined at about 10-80° relative to the surface of the roller, in order to produce complimentary shapes on an optical film. In accordance with the Applicants' claimed invention, problems in the prior art such as the formation of moiré fringes are avoided.

Claims 6-9 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,534,208 to Barr et al. (hereinafter "Barr"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

M. Tanaka et al.
U.S. Serial No. 09/841,666
Page 7 of 8

Barr fails to teach or suggest an apparatus and method for producing an optical film having a cylindrical die roller with concave or convex portions inclined at an angle of between about 10 degrees and 80 degrees with respect to a circumferential direction of the die roller.

Applicants' comments about Barr in the Amendment dated September 19, 2003 are incorporated by reference herein.

In the Office Action dated 03/22/2004, the Examiner alleged that the Barr reference teaches raised portions inclined at an angle of 90 degrees with respect to the circumferential direction of the die roller 12 (see FIG. 3 of Barr). As amended, claims 6-9 require the concave or convex portions to be inclined at a predetermined angle of about 10 degrees to 80 degrees, thereby distinguishing from the Barr reference. In accordance with the Applicants' claimed invention, by providing inclined portions on the surface of the die roller, complimentary shapes are produced on an optical film, thereby avoiding problems in the prior art such as moiré fringes.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also alleged that "an optical film" is recited only in the preamble, and thus the apparatuses and processes of claims 6-9 could be used to form mattresses, as taught in the Barr reference. However, claims 6-9 refer to the "film" in the body of each claim. For example, claim 6 recites that "the die roller is rotated on a film to transfer a rough face of the matrix having the convex or concave portions ... to a surface of the film." Therefore, claims 6-9 require use of an optical film, which can be a light reflective film for a reflection type liquid crystal display (LCD). In Barr, synthetic foam is pressed against the die roller, where the synthetic foam cannot be considered a "film," and certainly does not require the type of precision machining required to manufacture components of a liquid crystal panel, as taught in the Applicants' invention.

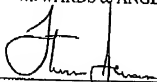
For at least the above-described reasons, Barr does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious the Applicants' claimed invention.

M. Tanaka et al.
U.S. Serial No. 09/841,666
Page 8 of 8

It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP



By: _____
Steven M. Jensen
(Reg. No. 42,693)

P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205

Date: June 21, 2004

Phone: (617) 439-4444

Customer No. 21874